

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A card connection adaptor for connecting, to a connector of a card slot disposed in a card slot connector housing compliant with a predetermined first standard, a card compliant with a second standard which is different from the first standard, the card connection adaptor comprising:

a first connector compliant with the first standard and adapted to be electrically connected to the connector of the card slot;

a second connector compliant with the second standard;

signal conversion circuitry connected to the first connector and the second connector for performing signal conversion between a first-standard-compliant signal and a second-standard-compliant signal; and

a housing which holds the first connector, the second connector and the signal conversion circuitry, the housing having a card insertion port which opens generally perpendicularly to an adaptor insertion direction in which the card connection adaptor is inserted into the card slot of the card slot connector housing, and a card retaining space for retaining therein the second-standard-compliant card inserted from the card insertion port,

wherein, when the card connection adaptor with the second-standard-compliant card is retained in the card retaining space is inserted into the card slot of the card slot connector housing, the second-standard-compliant card is at least substantially contained within both the card slot connector housing and the card connector adapter in a manner to prevent inadvertent disconnection of the second-standard-compliant card from the card connector adapter while inserted in the card slot.

2. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first standard is a standard which stipulates that an input/output control circuit be provided in a card to be fitted into the card slot.

3. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 2, wherein

the signal conversion circuitry includes the input/output control circuit for controlling input and output of the second-standard-compliant card.

4. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 2, wherein the second standard is a standard which stipulates that an input/output control circuit be provided in the second-standard-compliant card.

5. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the card connection adaptor has a card shape conformal to the first-standard-compliant card slot.

6. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the card retaining space is closed on its rear side as seen in the adaptor insertion direction so that the second-standard-compliant card cannot be inserted or withdrawn from the rear side of the card retaining space.

7. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first connector is adapted to be contact-connected to the connector of the card slot.

8. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the card connection adaptor is adapted to be powered through the connector of the card slot and the first connector.

9. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second connector is capable of powering there through the second-standard-compliant card fitted in the card connection adaptor.

10. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the card slot is a PC-standard memory card slot.

11. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the card retaining space is configured so as not to allow the second-standard-compliant card to project outwardly of the card retaining space when the card is retained in the card retaining space.

12. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, further comprising

a wiring board provided within the housing, on which the first connector, the second connector and the signal conversion circuitry are mounted.

13. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the signal conversion circuitry includes a pin configuration conversion circuit for converting a pin configuration between a first-standard-compliant card and a second-standard-compliant card.

14. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the signal conversion circuitry includes a signal processing circuit for converting signal format between the first standard-compliant signal and the second-standard-compliant signal to ensure inter-standard compatibility.

15. (Original) A card connection adaptor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second-standard-compliant card is a memory card which incorporates therein a memory IC and has a data storage function.

16. – 30. (Canceled)